

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00821 161332Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 EUR-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-01

OPIC-06 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-05 /054 W

----- 129126

R 161015Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USDA/WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3431

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0821

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: INDO-SOVIET PROTOCOL ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES

1. PRESS COVERAGE WAS RECENTLY GIVEN TO A TWO-YEAR INDO-SOVIET PROTOCOL ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN NEW DELHI ON JANUARY 12, 1976. DR. M.S. SWAMINATHAN, SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WHILE DR. B.A. RUNOV, SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET UNION.

2. THE PROTOCOL IS A CONTINUATION OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN 1971 AND ENVISAGES COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES, EXCHANGES OF VISITS BY SCIENTISTS AND SPECIALISTS, JOINT SYMPOSIA, AND THE EXCHANGE OF SEED SAMPLES AND PLANT MATERIALS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, JOINT MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW IN 1978 WERE ALSO PROPOSED WITH A VIEW TOWARD SCHEDULING SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS DURING 1978 AND 1979.

3. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PROTOCOL AIMS AT COOPERATION IN THE STUDY OF GRAPE GENETICS AND BREEDING, SUNFLOWER GENETICS AND PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY, AS WELL AS THE STUDY AND UTILIZATION OF WORLD PLANT RESOURCES FOR BREEDING FARM CROPS, THE DEVELOPMENT

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OF RICE VARIETIES HAVING HIGH YIELDS AND SUPERIOR QUALITIES, AND

THE STUDY OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN FIBER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COTTON. BOTH GOVERNMENT HAVE ALSO AGREED TO EXCHANGE SEED SAMPLES AND PLANT MATERIALS ON RICE, WHEAT

TRITICALE, MAIZE, BARELEY, SORGHUM, VEGETABLE AND OIL BEARING CROPS, TOBACCO, FORAGE CROPS AND GRASSES, GRAPES, PLUMS, AND OTHER FRUITS. THE STUDY OF HIGH YIELDING LIVESTOCK UNDER HOT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS INCLUDES FINE FLEECE SHEEP, KARAKUL SHEEP, THE ZEBU, AND BUFFALOES. RESEARCH ON THE PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS IS ALSO INVOLVED.

4. TWO SYMPOSIA ARE PLANNED--ONE EACH FOR 1976 AND 1977.

A SYMPOSIUM OF THE SELECTION OF HIGH-YIELDING DWARF VARIETIES RESISTANT TO THE MAIN RACES OF SMUT AND RUSTS WOULD BE HELD IN INDIA IN 1976 TO BE FOLLOWED NEXT YEAR BY A SYMPOSIUM IN THE USSR ON CROSS BREEDING OF ZEBU AND OTHER CATTLE. DURING 1976, A TOTAL OF 40 INDIAN SCIENTISTS WILL BE SENT TO THE USSR TO BE FOLLOWED IN 1977 BY THE RETURN OF AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS TO INDIA.

5. SOME OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT WOULD TAKE PART IN THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS ARE: THE BUREAU OF PLANT INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI, AND VAVILOV ALL-UNION RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF PLANT INDUSTRY, LENIN-

GRAD; THE CENTRAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT CUTTACK, AND THE ALL-UNION RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF RICE, KRASNODAR; THE ALL-

INDIA COORDINATED PROJECT ON COTTON IMPROVEMENT, COIMBATORE, AND THE ALL-UNION COTTON RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF COTTON BREEDING AND SEED BREEDING, TASHKENT. IN THE FIELD

OF ANIMAL SCIENCES, COLLABORATION IS ENVISAGED BETWEEN THE CENTRAL SHEEP AND WOOL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT AVIKANAGAR NEAR JAIPUR AND THE ALL-UNION RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY OF STEPPE AREAS AS WELL AS THE INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTES AT IZATNAGAR. THE RESEARCH ON PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS WOULD BE JOINTLY UNDERTAKEN BY THE ALL-UNION RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, MOSCOW, AND THE NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KARNAL.

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6. BOTH DRS SWAMINATHAN AND RUNOV, SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY, FELT THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. FINALLY, DR RUNOV STATED THAT FRAGMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS (AS INDICATED BY THE FIRST ALL-INDIA AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 1970-71, RELEASED DURING DECEMBER 1975) WOULD DEFINITELY HIT FOOD PRODUCTION AND OFFERED THE VIEW THAT THE SOVIET CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE FARMS

AND STATE FARMS WERE AN ANSWER TO THE DIMINISHING SIZE OF AGRICUL-
TURAL HOLDINGS.SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ZOOLOGY, AGRICULTURE, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE00821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760017-0443
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760150/aaaabsaa.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDO-SOVIET PROTOCOL ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES
TAGS: EAGR, TBIO, UR, IN
To: USDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006